

Amendment to the Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of providing a user (32, 34) of a telecommunications network with Signalling System Number 7 functionality, the network operating Internet Protocol (60) and at least one of Transport Control Protocol and User Datagram Protocol and having between the user (32, 34) and the Core Network (12, 14) of the telecommunications network at least one interface (16, 18, 28, 30), characterised by providing between the user (32, 34), and the Internet Protocol (60) an interface protocol layer (AP56), said interface protocol layer interfacing with at least one of Transport Control Protocol and User Datagram Protocol whereby Signalling System Number 7 information is transmitted across said at least one interface[.]₁

wherein the interface protocol layer is provided between a signalling application adopting Signalling Connection Control Protocol Service Access Points (SCCP SAPs) to access the signalling transport service and the Internet Protocol.

and wherein the interface protocol layer provides additional functions of SCCP SAPs not provided by either Transport Control Protocol or User Datagram Protocol, so as to provide the user with the same quality of service as the user would expect if a full SS7 Stack were used instead.

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled)